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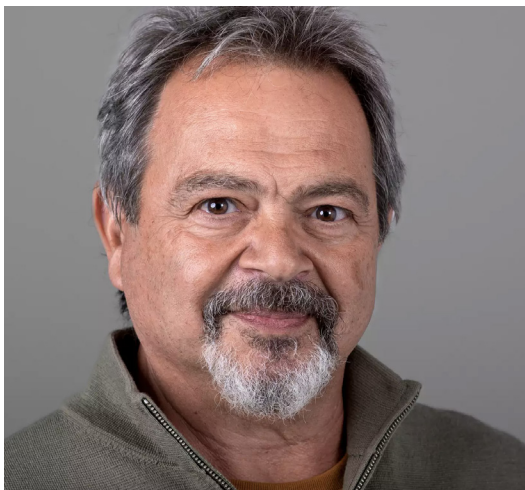
ISA INTERNATIONAL GUEST LECTURE

WHAT IS DIASPORIC MODERNITY?

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There is in many studies of migration and diasporic cultures an implicit temporally-imagined causal series: capitalism in the third world causes migration, which in turn causes transnational networks, which finally causes diasporic culture. In this lecture based on my new book, *The Diasporic Condition*, I show how, at least in the case of Lebanon, Diasporic Culture needs to be seen as the very culture of Lebanese modernity. Migration is a manifestation of this Diasporic culture rather than its condition of possibility. The lecture examines the various features that mark this Diasporic modernity. I will argue that the latter is defined by four key cultural features: 1. The internationalisation of the space of viability: seeing the globe in its entirety as somewhere where one can make a living, 2. A permanent state of comparative existence: the impossibility of an experience that is not haunted by images of other experiences in other national spaces, 3. A lenticular experience: a mode of simultaneously inhabiting the multiple cultural reality that make up one's world, and 3. An anisogamic conception of global inter-cultural relations: a way of seeing one's relation to other people in other nation as governed by a relation of superiority and inferiority structured around the binary: those who have to migrate and those who don't have to migrate.



Ghassan Hage is professor of anthropology and social theory at the University of Melbourne (Australia) and currently (2022-2024) visiting professor of anthropology at the Max Planck Institute of Social Anthropology in Halle (Germany). His work covers many areas including: critical anthropological theory, the anthropology of nationalism and racism and the anthropology of migration. He is the author of many works including most recently *Decay* (2021), *The Diasporic Condition* (2021) and most recently, *The Racial Politics of Australian Multiculturalism* (2023).

